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**Sent:** Tuesday, March 29, 2022 9:07 PM

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**Subject:** Early Childhood Leadership Advocacy

Dear Senators-

Thank you for your work on behalf of Vermonters through the pandemic and beyond.

As an Early Childhood Educator, I am beginning to feel a slight lessening of the immense pressures of the last 2 years. Along with that, however, is a sense of the unknown- of whether the support we have felt for our profession will continue as we begin to settle into our new normal.

The financial support that early childhood organizations have received has offered us a sense of what livable wages and support for the children and families we serve can mean. The future feels brighter. There is immense gratitude across the field.

As a 2018 graduate of the Snelling Early Childhood Leadership Institute, I have also realized a new sense of urgency in leadership for ECE. The leaders that emerge from Snelling are powerful and important in our state- in government, in business, in education, and in early childhood. Circumstances beyond the control of the Snelling Institute- covid and the untimely passing of the ECLI director, along funding shortfalls that could not be met due to both- have meant that for 3 years, we have not had a cohort of new ECE leaders emerging in our field. 125 ECLI graduates are dotted throughout leadership roles across the state. We are moving the dial on the important issues that impact young children, their families, and the professionals that work in the field. Our voices are raised advocating in our organizations, in our communities, and at the statehouse.

New funding for the Early Childhood Leadership Institute will revive this amazing program and bring it back to life. \$150,000 funds a cohort of 25 for a year. \$300,000 for 2 years. One time funding could get things back on track for the future of both the Snelling ECLI, and also for emerging leaders in Early Childhood in Vermont.

Please consider this funding for Early Childhood. A little goes a very long way. I am happy to testify or discuss further if you have any questions.

Again, thank you for all you do for so many-  
Sincerely,

Su White, ECE  
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